#5

An Inaugural Dissertation On Mania a potu.

By

James A. Washington

of

North Carolina.

Passed March 22d 1826

The c
make a few
ted. As
minent fe
ances from
the term m
priate
xication ha
abruptly de
served, gra
The pre
the muscul
well of the
cle — The
and all the
& lenguid —
bowels is
cited by th
cin. the mu

The disease, upon which, it is proposed to make a few remarks, has been variously designated. As mental alienation forms its most prominent feature, and as it, almost exclusively, arises from the excessive use of ardent spirits, the term mania a potu, is, perhaps, its most appropriate appellation. After a course of intoxication has been kept up for some time, and then abruptly discontinued, the disease is generally observed, gradually to make its approach.

The previous excitment has now passed away, the muscular power is peculiarly enfeebled, as well of the involuntary, as of the voluntary muscles — The flesh looses its tone and compactness, and all the motions of the patient are unsteady & languid — The peristaltic movement of the bowels is suspended, unless preternaturally excited by their accrimonious contents — In noticing the muscular relaxation, we are, by no means,

over-d
now throb
but feebly
& tonic in
with-draw

Frye, pa
of the St
is almost
so much
the rejecti
be taken
however,
when eve
bowels u
to costiv
to their s
as to the
the brain

to over-look the heart & blood vessels — The heart now throbs but with little force, and the pulse beats but feebly — thus we see, that the naturally exciting & tonic influence of the vital fluid is, in a measure, with-drawn from the whole System.

The prima viæ are, at this early stage, particularly disordered — The powers of the Stomach are enfeebled, and digestion is almost entirely suspended — We find the Stomach nauseated and irritable, and hence the rejection of almost every thing which may be taken in — with this important exception, however, that a little stimulus will be retained when every thing else would be cast out — The bowels will, almost always, be found inclined to costiveness, which is attributable, as much to their suspended functions in other respects, as to the suspension of their peristaltic motion. The brain & whole nervous System seem to

have lo
immedi
slightly
S
days, u
spoiu, p
stage, its
gement u
he brain
ide of a
observe
d by the
he highly
and glas
roughout
ii osseous
tion of th
find its b
indeed it

have lost much of their power — and hence the immediate cause of the nervous tremours, which slightly exist at a very early period.

Such symptoms continuing, about three days, we shall find them superseded by mania a potu, properly so called. — What gives to this stage, its distinctive character, is the mental derangement induced by the peculiar implication of the brain — We do not, however, find that full tide of arterial blood, rushing to the brain, which is observed to take place, in phrenitis, as indicated by the violent throbbing of the carotid arteries, the highly suffused and florid face, the fierce and glaring eye, the throbbing pulsatile pain throughout the brain, as if it would burst asunder its osseous envelope — but upon the application of the finger to the carotid artery, we find its beat quick, small and tremulous, indeed it is some times almost imperceptible —

we shall,
ed, and m
looks diffe
we behold.
suffusion
Sometimes
ered when
the whole
tient seem
very unde
The affecte
ing natu
excitement
tractable
so strongl
other circu
movement
find it d
relative to

we shall, at most, but observe the face of a dusky red, and not of a scarlet hue. The eye also, looks differently from what it does in phrenitis — we behold it, indeed, somewhat suffused, but the suffusion is not of a high arterial character. — Sometimes the pupil is dilated, and this is observed when the mind is deeply oppressed, and the whole system nearly paralysed —— the patient seems now, most to resemble one, labouring under compressed brain from accident. — The affection of the mind is of a very interesting nature — not caused by high arterial excitement, we do not find that fierce and intractable spirit to predominate, which, often, so strongly marks mania supervening under other circumstances —— Sometimes in the commencement of the mental infirmity, you may find it difficult of detection — Your questions relative to the affection of different parts, upon

which the
and disturb
will soon
nation of
most unfa
often fal
to get in
the affecti
of his cou
or start ou
The timid
characteri
to an eger
found on
attempts
danger, or
all evince
so remark
indeed, the

which they may be purposed, will, then, be answered distinctly, in general. —— But this state will soon be superseded by a greater or less alienation of mind. The patient will have the most unfounded fears, & his suspicions will often fall on his dearest connections. Should he get into a slight slumber, you may observe the affection of his mind, in the various changes of his countenance; and he may speak aloud, or start out his bed from the dread of murder! The timidity of the patient is a very striking characteristic — not however, always existing to an equal extent. He will, some times, be found on the floor with the bed over him, attempting to hide himself from imaginary danger, or he may secret himself in a corner — all evincing an excess of that peculiar timidity so remarkable in this disease. Sometimes indeed, the patient is captious and blunt in

is repl
combat

He
business
been a
speack t
any ke
mind pr
tions and

He
he is offe
something
attention
be observe
you m
a moment
immedia
to release
sight – h

his replies, but seldom, or never, is disposed to combat under any circumstances —

The mind seems to dwell intensly on business — or on former occupations — has he been a draymen, in his slumber, he may speack to his horse — has he been engayed in any kind of mercantile business, he calls to mind previous transactions, makes his calculations and arranges his affairs.

He sometimes desires release, not that he is offended, but from an idea, that he has something to do, which requires his immediate attention. If chained, the patient will often be observed to tug at the chain, with all his might — you may divert his attention from this, for a moment, while you address him, but he immediately returns to the same inneffectual exertions to release himself. It is a most painful sight — he acts almost as a brute would do, —

though
time,
object
at his b
tion to
ems lon
With re
stages m
slight a
secondly
derable
aspects,
estige o
It
omes on,
disorder,
petite, ra
as the bra
that viscu

though he attempts his liberation, yet at the time, he often seems to have no immediate object in view; he uses no expression of anger at his being chained; makes now, no supplication to be released; and indeed, reflection seems lost, and he appears the animal a brute.

With respect to mental alienation, several stages may be observed — first, where mere slight aberrations of intellect are perceptible; secondly, where this has taken place to a considerable degree, but still the mind, in many respects, is rational; and lastly when every vestige of reason is extinct.

It has been observed, that, before mania comes on, the stomach manifests considerable disorder, as evinced by the total loss of appetite, retching & vomiting; but as soon, as the brain becomes very much affected, that viscus is thrown into a torpid state—

now, no
no retch
affection
subsided
of art —
that organ
Apparen
ductive
haps, to
mitigated
thereby in
own time
that the de
be no evi
merly, it
hopeful
compara
The bowel
constipated

now, no sickness of stomach is complained of — no retching or vomiting takes place, until the affection of the brain shall have, somewhat, subsided, either naturally or by the powers of art — when, indeed, the previous distress of that organ, and vomiting, may return. Apparently, now, the vomiting appears productive of much relief, but it is rather, perhaps, to be regarded as an evidence of an mitigated form of cerebral disorder, and thereby in a measure, of a restoration of its own tone — To this view, it may be objected that the distressed state of the stomach can be no evidence of increased tone — but, formerly, it was torpid, and is now become possessed of its sensibility; and this must, comparatively, imply increased tone. The bowels will, in this stage, be obstinately constipated, sometimes for several days —

even from
Th
at first, o
a day
have been
by, or a la
when thus
eretions
found, p
unless in
rather o
state of th
is found
with a slu
very fre
sweat —
timely p
patients, f
pay paro

even from the suspension of the diffusible stimulus.

The tongue has been, more frequently, at first, observed red, moist and clean; but in a day or two, especially if calomel shall have been exhibited, it will be found whitely, or a little yellowishly furred, showing, when thus occurring, the restoration of the secretions — The tongue we think, is never found parched, dry, and darkly furred, unless in the last stage, when the affection is rather of a typhoid character —. The state of the skin is also, worthy of attention. It is found torpid and inactive, sometimes, with a slight warmth, at other times cold & very frequently covered with a clammy sweat — Muscular strength is now extremely protracted, though occasionally, patients, for a little time, are seen to display paroxysms, as it were, of immense strength.

Remov
particu
the disea
we may
when the
insensib
aroused
operativ
There is
sphincte
be passe
is nearly
with lut
is either
impercep
intermi
ing
Th
time
ved

Tremours of the limbs, and of the hands and tongue particularly, are now most remarkable. Should the disease run on, and its last stage supervene, we may have the greatest possible prostration — when the patient, usually lays in a state of insensibility, and can, with difficulty, be, at all, aroused. His will seems suspended in her operations, and his reason to have fled for ever. There is now no muscular power left, the sphincters relax and the urine or stools may be passed involuntarily. The force of the heart is nearly expended — it contracts and dilates with but little propulsive power & its motion is either, extremely rapid & thus almost imperceptible, or else slow & labouring — intermitting in its throbs.

The tremours of the limbs still continue — & real subsultus may now be observed. The danger of the patient is, at this

juncture,
the Scene
usually
ning a
spirits; bu
use of any
to have be
of the qu
tation, in
previous
spirits,
character
cultivat
on land
gation o
however,
that inte
point.

juncture, most imminent, and death may close the scene with a convulsion, more or less violent.

This disease is, as has been noticed, usually brought on by suddenly discontinuing a long-continued excessive use of ardent spirits; but it may also be induced by a similar use of any other stimulating article. It is said, to have been brought on from the diminution of the quantity of opium, which had been taken, in very large portions, for some time previously. The pernicious use of ardent spirits, is a foul and brutal stain upon the character of our country; and until the cultivation of the vine shall have blessed our land, we can hardly hope for a mitigation of the evil. It is in large cities, however, and among the poorest classes, that intemperance shows her most hideous front. Of the numerous persons, brought

into the Ch
potu, by
who are
ing liqu
at the
influence
so much
and ult
to mere
this would
of the sa
These un
having
necessary
this circ
a count
bers in se
females
with the

into the Philadelphia Alms-House, with mania a potu, by far the greatest part are of the low Irish, who are notorious for their fondness of stimulating liquors — It would be interesting to point out the moral causes which, so deleteriously, influence this class of foreigners, and which tend, so much, to debase their native nobleness of soul, and ultimately, to reduce so many of them to mere vagabonds and nuisance of society; this would lead, beyond the proper bounds of the subject & it is therefore relinquished.

These unfortunate beings, when in this state, having no families to take care of them, are, necessarily, carried to a house of charity, and this circumstance may, likewise, in a measure, account for their comparatively greater numbers in such institutions as alms-houses.

Females are, also, frequently, admitted with this disease, and they, too, are mostly

of the lo
Summer
only fo
mania
para. o

away oth
Stean on
disorder,
resulting

the pecul
already
defined
other aff
it is of
take this
form a
or of its

of the low Irish, or women of loose character — Last Summer a boy was introduced into this institution only fourteen years of age, labouring under mania a potu; we might exclaim "O Jesu-pora! o moses!".

The distinction of this disease, from every other, is a matter of but little difficulty. It can only be confounded with some cerebral disorder, attended by insanity, or with mania resulting from other causes.

The history of its induction, and the peculiar symptoms of Mania a potu, as already detailed, will serve to draw a well-defined line of distinction between it & all other affections. It may be remarked, that it is of the utmost importance, not to mistake this disease and treat it, as if arising from a highly inflamed state of the brain or of its membranes, else to say the least, in no

short
mense
to wheel
full
here, if
case, w
might
few day

usually
if long
for a m
not ter
variety
bits of th
nel or
hence h
and sto
Cylopo

short time, will the physician, from the immense prostration of his patient, be compelled to wheel around, and to sustain him by the full use of the diffusible stimuli; and will have, if ultimately successful, a protracted case, which by pursuing a different course, might probably have been relieved in as few days as weeks have been required. –

It is said that the disease will usually continue, from four to ten days, if longer, that it will be apt to linger on, for a month or more. Its duration and final termination may be influenced by a variety of circumstances, as the previous habits of the patient, the degree of the functional or structural derangement that may thence have been superinduced upon the liver and stomach in particular, and upon the chylopoetic apparatus generally. Indeed

the genu
now bee
or abortes
be over c
bable re
al been o
the mmo
out of m
nly, ma
tion, alm
larger t
the case,
per corre
tances,
tric char
with his
will be th
supremac
previous

the general tone of the whole system, as it may have been more or less impaired by a longer or shorter course of intoxication, should not be overlooked in forming an idea of the probable result of the disease. Has the individual been driven to intemperance, in order to free the mind of corroding care and anxiety, arising out of misfortune, either in business or in formely matters, the mental disturbance will then, almost certainly, be protracted to a much longer time than would otherwise have been the case; and the corporeal powers must suffer correspondently. Under such circumstances, while the mind retains any of its true character, the patient will be harassed with his own reflections — and such too, will be the case, as soon, as reason shall have supervened, in ever so slight a degree, after the previous wreck of this high faculty. As every

had m
ed wit
fortuna
over the
hope w
serve t
But he
whole
the rec
almost
well a
and yet
getting
should
cure —

bad man seems not, at all times, to be tormented with pangs of remorse, so likewise, unfortunate beings are not perpetually brooding over their misfortunes — Sometimes a distant hope will cheer the soul, light up the eye and nerve the whole man to new exertions — But here what have we to expect: — the whole frame is enfeebled & broken down; the recuperative powers of the system are almost exhausted, and the present as well as the past and future are lowering and gloomy! — Should we succeed in getting the patient into a sound sleep, we should have a well grounded hope of speedy cure — but not otherwise.

aded by a
made b
be, by the
change i
exact co
good for
from wh
But throu
advance
foundati
they serve
involved
a proxim

Q
have seen

With respect to the phenomena revealed by dissections, different statements are made by different writers — There may be, by the force of the disease, a considerable change induced in parts, and hence their exact condition, should the disease have lingered for some time, will be very different from what it was in the commencement — But though the appearances at a stage so advanced, are not a sure guide, as a foundation for pathological deductions, still they serve to point us to the parts primarily involved, and to which we are to look, for its proximate formation, and its propagation.

Of the number of cases, which we have seen examined after death, the

appear
een pre
nvenu
ations
found
ances b
judged
or sexu-
t exist,
especiall
appearan
attributa
ndation
The vene
reter an
denus, a
blood-in
s these
prominen

appearances exhibited by the brain, have been pretty uniformly the same, differing however in degree — Contrary to the assertions of some writers, blood has been found effused, in all cases, and in some, ounces have escaped, as far, as could be judged, without admeasurement. A serous, or sero-sanguinous fluid has been observed to exist, some times in considerable quantity — especially in the ventricles of the brain. Such appearances are, no doubt, in some measure, attributable to the throes of death or to transudation from the vessels after it has occurred — The venous trunks distributed over the Pia mater and leading into the longitudinal sinus, are observed filled with dark venous blood — indeed, this appearance is remarkable, as these vessels are now seen to be remarkably prominent and numerous, and show conclusi-

vely, if
death, re
exerted
by nerve
are no
an eviden
as to exp
medullar
yel and
white ap
and the c
cet orific
On the Pi
be seen,
exhibit m

authority
uniformly
certainly

vely, if such were their condition previous to death, what an influence must have been exerted upon the brain, even mechanically, by venous congestion;—for the other veins are no doubt, in a similar state, and as an evidence of this, if the brain be sliced so as to expose its vessels running through the medullary matter, they will be seen engorged and greatly to discolour the naturally white appearance of the surfaces of its section, and the character of the blood, seen in the cut orifices, clearly indicates its venous nature. On the Pia mater, a few arterial trunks will be seen, but they are extremely small and exhibit no marks of recent hyperæmia.

We have been told, and by high authority, that the stomach has been found uniformly, highly inflamed.— Such, most certainly, is not the case, should the disease

have soo
the patien
ed from
s well a
cted ca
mined n
two or thre
the min
ly exhau
flamma
nach an
pered ve
indeed, so
been dest
upon the
wash the
y threw th
purpose,
expressed

have soon run its course or have speedily carried the patient off — But that the stomach has suffered from inflammation, and in a great degree, as well as the whole alimentary canal, in protracted cases, cannot be denied — In a case examined in this institution, which had lingered two or three weeks without a complete restoration of the mind, at any time, and then died completely exhausted, and in which pneumonic inflammation had been superinduced, the stomach and intestines were found to have suffered very considerably from inflammation — indeed, so completely must their vitality have been destroyed before death, that the attendant upon the dissecting room, who was ordered to wash them, for future examination, actually threw them away, thinking them unfit for the purpose, since they were so very rotten, as he expressed himself, that they easily yielded to

the impu
be engaged
Th
very healt
a good de
per not be
by which
the stomach
ction, wo
no marks
be observed
their relaxed
whole organ
excessive d
with blood
red appe
stomach
character
the liver w

the impulse of the finger, in numerous places, while engaged in cleansing them —

The liver of this individual looked very healthy, with the exception of its being a good deal enlarged. — When mania a potu has not lingered and death has supervened early, which is more usual than a late termination, the stomach will be found nearest its exact condition, when the disease first made its attack — no marks of real inflammation will then be observed. — The vessels of this organ, from their relaxed & torpid condition (indeed the whole organ is remarkably torpid during the excessive derangement of the brain) will, be filled with blood, more or less, and hence the turgid & red appearance of the internal surface of the stomach — but this is not of a highly arterial character. Under similar circumstances, the liver will generally, should it not have

become
ts or fe
d with
gement,

Th
about the
diately
except s
examin
these, the
any rem

lugy of
system
ral pow
happens
sudden
full vol
wasting

become structurally deranged by previous bad habits or from other causes, be found deeply congested with blood, and hence a greater or less enlargement.

There are no phenomena, ever observed about the thoracic organs, which are immediately attributable to the disease before us, except such as are found in the post mortem examinations of drunkards generally, and these, therefore may be passed over, without any remark.

What shall we say of the pathology of this disease? We observe the whole system more or less affected, we see its general powers exhausted, not gradually as happens from long protracted illness, but suddenly, and while the muscles possess their full volume, and while no signs of a previous wasting or emaciation, whatever, exist.

The powe
ever, as h
but the d
most pa
the circu
peristaltic
C
and inc
much imp
and inse
from the
cerebral ol
ning of th
closely p
be the se
portant p
icular,
sometim
es arise

The power of the muscles of voluntary motion, are, however, as has been observed, not alone impaired; but the tone of the involuntary muscles is, for the most part particularly diminished — and hence the circulation is carried on languidly and the peristaltic movement of the al: canal suspended.

The general tone of the stomach, bowels, and indeed of the whole chylopoetic viscera, is much impaired — being usually, in a very torpid and insensible condition, as is sufficiently manifest from the patient, seldom, or never, when the cerebral disorder continues with much force, complaining of the slightest uneasiness in them, though severely pressed, in order to ascertain, what may be the sufferance of the individual, in such important parts. With respect to the stomach, in particular, it may be remarked, that its distress is sometimes exceedingly great; not such, however, as arises from real inflammation, since no

sensation
of and sin
vous, nea
siderable re
indicated
tation of
sing despon
welm the
stomach e
of the affec
its result
while notic
of the system
nature of
the extreme
by the inact
overlooked

When
nected with

sensation of actual pain or heat is complained of, and since the oppressed or sickened state of this viscus, never exists to any degree, without a considerable remission of the cerebral affection, as indicated by the comparatively complete restoration of the mind, though the most distressing despondency will then, usually, almost overwhelm the patient — Such a condition of the stomach is connected with a mitigated state of the affection of the brain, if not, immediately, as its result, at any rate as its concomitant. While noticing the generally impaired powers of the system, with a view to understand the real nature of this affection, the torpid condition of the extreme capillaries of the body, as manifested by the inactive state of the skin, is by no means, to be overlooked.

When we bear in mind how intimately connected with the proper performance of the cutaneous

function is the full enjoyment of health, we cannot fail to recognize in its torpid state, in the total want of tone in its vessels whether they tinge the surface duskily red, but without exciting natural warmth or diffusing an equable temperature throughout the external surface; or whether they allow to pour forth a clammy sweat which feels like the damp and cold of death, we cannot, I say, under such circumstances, fail to recognise in this inactive condition of the skin, the great change which has taken place in the healthy performance of the vascular and cerebral or nervous functions. That the powers of the brain and indeed of the whole nervous system are much enfeebled, we have the strongest manifestations.

The lap of tone of the whole body and of the different viscera particularly, show this most conclusively; or at least, such an

impaire
differen
nerab, a
the brain
vise pass
ead exe
condition
do, that
its opera
as migh
unstrang
shooters
ses of the
hace wi
the bran
regards
but like
influence
and hen

impaired state of the energies, particularly of different parts, and of the whole system in general, could not have an existence, without the brain and whole nervous organization likewise participating in the same state of diminished energy. The general change in the condition of the mind, admitting as we all do, that the brain is the organ though which its operations are carried on, is exactly such, as might be anticipated — It is completely unstrung, its energies are lost — timidly fills the slowest heart — indeed, the mind fully partakes of the general prostration, and it keeps pace with the disordered condition of the brain. The brain, then, is in fault, not only as regards the changes induced in the mind, but likewise as regards the alteration of its influence over the various parts of the system — and hence, when it is restored to its healthy con-

dition,
we shall
but an
frame,
tions of

cease, the
less en pe
energy
the circula
few was

it is this
every par
whole ne
powers
blood.
flow of
lation th

dition, so far as relates to its own inherent powers, we shall have, not only a restoration of reason, but an amelioration of the state of the whole frame, and particularly as regards the functions of important parts.

It has been remarked, that in the disease, the whole muscular system is more or less enfeebled, and that this diminution of energy is extended to the moving powers of the circulation, and it now remains to say a few words of the consequences.

The blood is the vital fluid of the body, it is this which infuses life and tone into every part; it is this, to which the brain and whole nervous system are indebted for their powers — here reference is had only to arterial blood. To whatever part there is an increased flow of arterial blood, provided the circulation through it, be kept up proportionately

rapid,
bility, an
y; and
drivers,
correspon
ulation —
nished. —
circulat
he brain
excited;
excitem
not hous
ifying
ihenome
sufficient
t shall
o loose et
dwell on
load by

rapid, we shall there, observe increased sensibility, and within a certain limit, increased energy; and from whatever part the blood shall be driven, we shall there, observe phenomena correspondent with the changed state of the circulation—its sensibility and tone will be diminished.— While there is a rapid flow and circulation of arterial blood to, & through, the brain, we shall find it proportionately excited; and vice versa, we shall find its excitement correspondently lowered. We need not however labour the point to prove the vivifying influence of arterial blood; and the phenomena observed in local inflammations sufficiently show its loss of that power, when it shall have, so long lingered in a part, as to loose its arterial character. Nor need we dwell on the change impressed upon the blood by its passage through the lungs — at

its entrance
t com
of the s
ible S
t gives
fluxus
econom
stimula
flow o
aspect,
change
ws that
cated
is exten
nuus
from th
shall b
vessels
And he

its entrance, we find it of a dark hue, but at its exit, it comes out the florid, vital, renovating fluid of the system. The immediate effect of diffusible stimulus, is the increased impetus which it gives to the circulation. "Ubi irritatio, ibi afflux" is a well known law of the animal oeconomy — there is, from the impression of stimulus upon the stomach, an increased flow of blood to this viscus, and also, we may assert, an increased flow of blood from it. The change in the condition of its circulation, shows that an increased action is communicated to its vessels. This increased action is extended, perhaps, by what is called continuous sympathy, along all the vessels leading from the stomach, and thus ultimately, we shall have the action of the heart and of the vessels through out the whole system increased. And here, before we proceed, it may be proper

suggest
the stoma
order
close co
since the
on the s
whole a
portal c
well as
luded, a
lation
as well a
lions wh
manix
inscpin
shall ha
anged,
extent.
are inc

to suggest, that the particular distribution of blood to the stomach, liver and spleen should be borne in mind, in order that we may see one great cause of the close connection between these three viscera. And since the impression of ardent spirits is not made on the stomach alone, but more or less, on the whole alimentary canal, therefore the whole portal circulation should be kept in view, as well as the particular part to which we have alluded, and we shall see a sufficient foundation for the liver-complaints of drunkards, as well as be sensible of the deep hepatic congestions which must always more or less exist in mania a potu, should it supervene from the excessive abuse of ardent spirits, unless, the liver shall have been previously, so structurably deranged, as not to admit of congestion to any extent. We have seen, how the blood vessels are increased in action by the immediate effects

of diffusible stimulus; we have observed that the blood is to be regarded as the vivifying principle, but that this character is confined to its arterial part; we have also adverted to the resuscitation of the venous blood by decarbonization, or some other change imposed upon it, in its passage through the lungs; and hence we can be at no loss to see, how the whole system is excited by the increase of its circulation — Such an increase is the effect of diffusible stimulus and thus results its exciting influence over the whole system —

The excitement will be most manifest and striking in the most vital and important parts. Apetite and digestion are increased; perspiration not clammy, but natural, breaks forth; the mind is exhilirated; the various passions of an animal nature, have an increased impulse impar-

ted to them; the whole soul swell with its own importance — the excitement of the brain, indeed, may become so excessive, as to convert the individual, almost into a mad-man, as is seen in particular persons, in the fiercest forms of intoxication; or apoplexy may be induced, should a peculiar conformation of body favour its production. It would seem to be necessary that such excitement, as has been described, should previously have existed, else that peculiar condition of the brain, and whole system in which mania a potu takes place, could not otherwise supervene.

We have, already, spoken of the induction of this condition, and of its gradually leading to the disease under consideration, from abruptly discontinuing the use of diffusible stimulus after a long course of repeated intoxication. The higher the state of excitement

Recept. up
more cons
ect, in in
ch follow
human f
extremes
cision, a
side diff
extent, 1
carried
ciple, an
its direct
to what
tutu, is, 1
bility and
by called, 1
sult from
ne, the n
nce which

Kept up by the use of stimulating liquors, the more considerable an influence will they exert, in increasing the degree of prostration which follows their sudden abstraction. The human frame always suffers most, from extremes following each other in rapid succession, and of course, proportionately to the wide difference of those extremes; or to the extent, to which they may be respectively carried. A simple illustration of this principle, and the example is chosen, because of its directly opposite character, in one sense, to what occurs in the causation of mania a potu, is, that when a part has had its sensibility and vitality, considerably diminished by cold, the most dreadful consequences result from the application of heat, and they are, the more severe, in proportion to the difference which may have existed between the

degree of
ave bee

ently stro
the syste
again &
continue
as a mat
prostrat
And we
carried
of existe
as all pa
al excite
trated, o
prostrate
or its effe
most sa
phenom

degree of cold & of heat, to which the part may have been, successively exposed.

The analogy between the cases, is sufficiently striking for comparaison, and to show, that the system having being excessively excited, again & again, by the repeated and long-continued use of diffusible stimulus, must, as a matter of course, be in proportion, excessively prostrated by their abrupt discontinuance. And we may well imagine, that this may be carried to such an extent, that the chain of existence shall almost be dissevered. But, as all parts of the system, do not admit of equal excitement, so they cannot be equally prostrated, or in other words the phenomena of prostration will not be so observable in them, or its effects so conspicuous. — Thus may we, most satisfactorily, account for the various phenomena exhibited by mania a potu, not

only for
mind;
system —
mind
operation
must, no
brain.
exciting
induced
to it, a
and fie
far, as
the case,
previous
sunk on
level; o
mind,
a peoto,
sequence

only for the changes induced in the state of the mind; but in the different parts of the whole system — The brain, being the organ of the mind and that through which its different operations are carried on, the state of the mind must, measurably, correspond with that of the brain. So long as this organ was under the exciting influence of excessive arterial action induced by stimulation, the mind had imparted to it, a corresponding excitement, energy and fierceness, and this may be carried so far, as to amount even to madness — Reverse the case, and consider the brain deprived of the previous artificial stimulus, & its energies sunk and prostrated far below the natural level; and then, the wonderful timidity of mind, and even the wreck of reason in mania a potu, will be acknowledged, to be such consequences as might be expected. The state of

the bran
ciently
in this
the alm
some tim
the mea
vided,
ep of b
lation
carried
from the
of blood
The stom
described
sensible
ted: bu
re when
organ u
es of this

the brain & of the muscular system will sufficiently account for the tremors so remarkable in this affection — The dilated pupil and the almost comatose state attending it, which sometimes occur in the disease, are referable to the mechanical influence of venous congestion aided, at the time, perhaps, by the fresh access of blood to it, during the languid circulation of the brain, being greater than that carried off — this view is favoured, by revulsion from the head, or the diminution of its quantity of blood by cups, relieving such symptoms. The stomach in this affection, as already described, is almost always torpid and insensible, and such a condition should be expected; but before mania has properly formed, or when it remits, we occasionally find this organ very distressed and such alternate states of this viscus are from the nature of the

disease cer
brain is actu
stomach is
the brain is
nauseated,
take place
different st
nected toge
monia a
state of the
of the torpe
system, m
to restore e
peculiar c
are referab

a hotu, we
moral prin
in the trea

disease certainly to be anticipated. — When the brain is actually compressed, as by accident, the stomach is insensible; but in concussion, when the brain is less affected, it is usually much nauseated, and retching and vomiting may take place. Thus we see, how intimately, different states of the stomach and brain are connected together — but the state of the stomach in mania a potu is not entirely referable to the state of the brain. They both alike partake of the torpid and prostrated condition of the system, more or less. To the efforts of nature to restore every thing to its former state, the peculiar character of some of the phenomena are referable in this affection.

In the management of mania a potu, we are not to loose sight of those general principles which should conduct us in the treatment of all those variations

from th
are yield
empiric
double
animal
diseases
principl
bance, the
medies a

affection
mended
have pro
sistent w
yet, as w
ticulars,
heterogen

blood let

from the healthy state, constituting disease; nor yield ourselves up, to the full sway of empiricism. Such general principles are deducible from the laws which regulate the animal economy in its restoration from a diseased to a healthy condition, and such principles will include, in their wide embrace, the modus agendi of the various remedies which it may be requisite to employ.

Different plans of managing this affection, have been practised and recommended, but in fact, those which may have proved successful, cannot be inconsistent with each other; and it shall be our object, as we proceed, to attempt, in one or two particulars, a reconciliation of their apparently heterogeneous ingredients.—

Have we any thing to expect from blood letting in mania a potu? As regards

vene se
very ra
f cases
Professo
led to he
he first
lled to
nd sen
ot only
anced
becomin
but sur
vere nu
think.
G
r never
ven the
te person
his energ

vene section, most writers admit that it is but very rarely demanded, and in the great majority of cases would prove highly detrimental. Professor Potter in a note on this subject, appended to his edition of Armstrong, asserts that during the first few days of mania a potu, he has often bled to the amount of seventy or eighty ounces, and several times an hundred, and this too, not only in young subjects, but also in patients advanced in life, if recently attacked. It were unbecoming in us, to decry such high authority, but surely some fallacy has crept in, and it were not perhaps, different to point out the chink.

General blood letting can, seldom or never, be required in this affection, as even the young, robust and hitherto temperate person will be found so protrated and his energies so enfeebled, as entirely to pre-

clude a
the good
tal from
ment, a
the relig
revulsio
dency, p
But
place, a
have the
diately
D
system
perhaps
extent) a
relative lo
ment sign
different
of general

clude any real necessity for its employment. The good effects which have occasionally resulted from its use, in the hands of some practitioners, are, to say the most, of an indirect kind: the relief given to a congested brain, by its revulsive effects, compensating for its own tendency, farther to prostrate the general system. — But should this revulsive effect, not take place, as will sometimes happen, we shall have the most alarming exhaustion immediately to result.

Local blood-letting, should the general system seem unusually plethoric (which perhaps can never now be the case to any extent) and the brain to suffer from an oppressive load of blood, may be used with the most signal advantage — there is all the difference between the use of local and of general blood letting at this time, that

here com
effect.
s of such
st the de
blood lett
mode of
warmth to
he lower
remarkab
from the
dat cutan
ered —

Of em
mania a
tion. —
sense ac
be doubted
be deni
efficacy

there can be, between certainty and uncertainty of effect. But when the congestion of the brain is of such a nature that it can be relieved without the detraction of blood, even locally, local blood letting should be dispensed with — The mode of relief alluded to, is that of external warmth to the surface, and particularly to the lower extremities which, usually, are remarkably cold & torpid — Thus revulsion from the brain may not only be effected, but cutaneous action, in a measure, restored —

Of emetics, as a means of combatting mania a potu, there has been much contention. — That they may be used with immense advantage in this disease, cannot be doubted — the fact is too well sustained to be denied — We may contend that their efficacy is supported, not only by high

authority
which
when we
and revol
they
sensibili
ring the
and this to
quantity;
of its superi
restablist
and of its
parts of an
digestive a
cous syst
the whole
the hepatic
and energ
the comm

authority, but by the doctrine of mania a potu which we have attempted to deliver —.
When we recollect that they are the most powerful revulsive agents which we possess; that they have the power of reviving the sensibilities of the whole system, by equalizing the distribution of its vivifying fluid, and this too, without scarcely diminishing its quantity; that they thus tend to unload the brain of its superfluous blood, and thereby to aid in the reestablishment of its own inherent powers, and of its healthy influences over the various parts of our frame, but particularly over the digestive apparatus, and the muscular and cutaneous systems; that they, also, tend to emulge the whole portal circulation, especially the hepatic; and finally, that thus, the tone and energy of every part must be revived, we cannot hesitate to admit, that they

may exerc
over mass
remove it
of the pati
necessary
men, cons
dapted to t
powers.
however,
Though, he
or without
almost eff
cases, he w
In a State
a remedy
be used u
judgemen
a pota is
in the Pho

may exert the most beneficial influence over mania a potu, and, in fact, completely remove it — when, to the perfect restoration of the patient to health, nothing may be necessary but a properly regulated regimen, consisting of food and of drinks adapted to the prostrated state of the corporeal powers. This high praise of emetics, however, needs considerable qualification. Though, he who employs them empirically, or without discrimination, would sometimes almost effect miracles; still, in many cases, he would do irreparable mischief. In a state of the system, so very critical, a remedy of such mighty powers, should be used with the utmost caution and judgement. Given, even while mania a potu is just seizing the patient, they have, in the Philadelphia Alms House, in some

few case
ting eve
flashing
giving the
than it w
sped. S
liar idio
vous cause
used for
be almost
would be
extremely
sympathe
ding influe
and an agg
follow the
state of the
should they
or function

few cases, had the apparent effect of aggravating every symptom and of instantly establishing mental alienation, and indeed of giving the affection a tenfold worse form, than it would probably, otherwise, have possessed. Such an effect may be owing to peculiar idiosyncrasy, or to some other more obvious cause. Should the case have continued for any time, and the powers of life, be almost exhausted, to resort to emesis would be madness — the system is now so extremely cripled in her energies, and her sympathies so broken, that the wide pervading influence of emetics would be lost, and an aggravation of the case most surely follow their administration. The particular state of the liver and of the various viscera, should they have long suffered structurally or functionally, from the abuse of stimulan

may counteract, in a considerable degree, the otherwise good effects which would be likely to result from emetics, or, indeed, cause them to produce absolute mischief. — It may be laid down as a rule, that emetics will either do a great deal of good, or an immense deal of injury, and particularly as regards the condition of the brain. Should their revulsive powers not relieve it, we are to look for its more serious derangement. Upon the whole therefore, the use of emetics is not recommended, as a general practice.

Purgatives, in almost every case, are indispensable, not with a view, however, to cure the disease, but to open the bowels which are usually, very costive, and to carry off their foul contents. Calomel, is particularly indicated for this purpose,

nigled w
the dark
implicat
seems to
bowels
seldom
expressly
be so, a
suffice.
case, the
least one
this will
small & re
other views,
judicious
title of the
it better, h
large quo
recommen

aided when it lingers, by oil or an enema. The dark and highly offensive stools, and the implication of the liver and other viscera, seems to give it the preference. When the bowels have been once well opened, it is seldom necessary to give a purge again, expressly for this purpose, and if it should be so, a mild one, as castor oil, will suffice. During the progress of the case, the bowels should be opened, at least once in the twenty four hours, but this will almost always be effected by the small & repeated doses of calomel, given with other views, and as advised by Armstrong in his judicious observations on this affection, under the title of the brain fever of drunkards. We think it better, however, to give the calomel in rather large quantity & more frequently than he recommends — viz gr. j. ij may be given

every two hours, until a slight salivant effect shall be induced, should not a considerable amendment of the case, have taken place, previously.

We will only trespass farther, by saying a few words of Opium in this disease. It is here, indeed, the "magnum dei donum" and is worthy of the highest commendation. Its best form of administration, is that of Black drop, in repeated doses, aided by the judicious administration of porter or some other malt liquor; or if the case should be unusually low, the most active diffusible stimulus, as ardent spirits, may be more advantageously employed with the acetum opii

We have abstained from entering, more fully into the treatment of this disease, and with much pleasure, have it in our power, to refer to Armstrong's most valuable publication, above alluded to, for a full exposi-

tion of
have inc
what m
of this ag

and atte
of indu
of man
with eve
only to
we have
ay found
diseases
els all
ort, ove
different
all may
aven, in
ish, other

tion of some points of practice, which we have inculcated; and for a further detail of what may be necessary, in the management of this affection.

The Pathological views, advanced, and attempted to be sustained by the mode of induction, and by the various phenomena of mania a potu, are, we think, in consonance with every accredited plan of treatment, but only to such an extent, as from our observations, we have cause to believe, that it has been, really found beneficial. To the treatment of diseases the oft-used figure, of different vessels all sailing from the same to a distant port, over the same common ocean, but by different tracts, is strictly applicable. They all may, ultimately arrive at the destined haven, in a shorter or longer time, some with less, others with a greater deviation from

straig

a straight direction.

G No 97

1826

Treatment of
Mania a Potu
by Spiders Web
Rich.d Sexton.